

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3575

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS 821

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

CINCUSNAVEUR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/EC J-2

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TAGS: PFOR PBOR TU GR

SUBJ: GOT STATEMENTS AND CONTACTS ON AEGEAN DISPUTE: WEEK-

END PRESS COVERAGE

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SUMMARY: IN CONTRAST TO SENSATIONAL TURKISH PRESS PLAY ON GREECE DURING LAST SEVERAL DAYS, PRIMIN ECEVIT AND FONMIN GUNES HAVE MADE RELATIVELY MODERATE STATEMENTS ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. ECEVIT SAID HE HAD TALKED IN PARIS WITH GREEK FONMIN TETENES, AND GUNES SAID HE MAY DISCUSS ISSUES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH TETENES DURING SPECIAL UNGA SESSION. PRESS, MEANWHILE, REPORTS THAT TETENES HAS CALLED IN TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO GREECE, AND THAT NATO IS CONCERNED OVER FRICTION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. RECENT GOT STATEMENTS ON GREECE

A. PRIMIN ECEVIT, WHO RETURNED TO ANKARA EVENING OF APRIL 7 FROM POMPIDOU FUNERAL, TOLD JOURNALISTS APRIL 8 THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH GREEK FONMIN TETENES IN PARIS ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. ECEVIT SAID HE HAD INFORMED TETENES OF TURKEY'S "GOOD WILL AND DETERMINATION" TO SOLVE EXISTING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. TURKEY, PRIMIN SAID, "WOULD LIKE TO SOLVE ISSUES BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AS TECHNICAL AND LEGAL QUESTIONS BEFORE THEY BECOME POLITICAL PROBLEMS". HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED, "SOME PERSONS MIGHT FIND US TOO QUIET ON THESE TOPICS; THEY SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THIS SILENCE". (ECEVIT ADDED THAT HE AND TETENES HAD NOT DISCUSSED CYPRUS.)

B. FONMIN GUNES, RETURNING ON APRIL 8 FROM TEHRAN, SAID TO THE PRESS THAT PROSPECTING LICENSES FOR OIL ISSUED BY GREECE AND TURKEY ARE MUTUALLY CONTESTED (ALTHOUGH TURKEY DOES NOT CHALLENGE GREEK DRILLING OFF THASSOS ISLAND). THE CONFLICT WAS OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND THIS SHOULD BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID. GUNES INDICATED FURTHER THAT HE MIGHT MEET WITH HIS GREEK COUNTERPART DURING SPECIAL UNGA SESSION.

C. THE MFA HAS CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY THAT FONMINISTRY SPOKESMAN AKBIL DID, AS REPORTED IN PRESS, DENY ON APRIL 2 THAT THE US IS DELAYING PHANTOM AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES TO TURKEY AS A MEANS OF EXERTING PRESSURE ON THE GOT.

D. TWO PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION -- FEYZIOGLU OF THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY AND SUKAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY -- ON APRIL 6 SPOKE TO PRESS HERE OF THE NEED UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR TURKEY TO PROTECT ITS RIGHTS WHILE SEARCHING FOR A SOLUTION TO DISAGREEMENTS WITH GREECE.

2. PRESS SPECULATION ON CONTACTS BETWEEN GOG AND GOT:

APRIL 7 ISSUES OF CUMHURIYET AND MEDIUM CIRCULATION MILLIYET BOTH REPORTED ON A MEETING IN ATHENS APRIL 5 BETWEEN TETENES AND TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO GREECE GURUN. ACCORDING TO THESE

PAPERS, TWO OFFICIALS AGREED THAT POLICIES ON RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES REMAINED UNCHANGED. IN RESPONSE TO TETENES' QUERY, GURUN REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT TURKEY CANNOT CONTROL ANTI-GREEK OUTBURSTS IN ITS PRESS, WHICH HAD BEEN STIMULATED BY SIMILAR PRESS CAMPAIGN IN GREECE.

3. REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS IN NATO

A. ACCORDING TO APRIL 6 EDITION OF MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET, NATO SECGEN LUNS HAS ASKED TURKEY ABOUT GREEK COMPLAINTS THAT TURKEY HAS OVERFLOWN AEGEAN. TURKISH DELEGATE ERALP REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT, WHILE GOT WILL GIVE PRIOR NOTIFICATION, IT WILL AS HERETOFORE NOT ASK PERMISSION FROM ATHENS TO OVERFLY AEGEAN. FURTHERMORE, ERALP ALLEGEDLY SAID, TURKEY WILL PROSPECT FOR OIL IN 21 PLACES IN THE AEGEAN, GREEK OBJECTIONS NOTWITHSTANDING.

B. IN ADDITION, CUMHURIYET ON APRIL 6 QUOTES NATO DEPSEC GEN HUMPHREYS AS TELLING JOURNALISTS IN BRUSSELS THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY DURING MARCH 28 NATO MANEUVERS IN AEGEAN SHOULD NOT HAVE COME OUT INTO THE OPEN. THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET, HAS APPEALED TO BOTH COUNTRIES NOT TO REPEAT SUCH INCIDENTS.

4. PRESS COVERAGE ON ALLEGED GREEK MILITARY ACTIVITIES

A. WEEKEND EDITIONS OF MILLIYET AND HURRIYET ALLEGE THAT 36-38 PHANTOMS EITHER ALREADY HAVE ARRIVED OR WILL ARRIVE IN GREECE BY NOVEMBER. THE PAPERS REPORT A HIGH STATE OF GREEK MILITARY READINESS, AND STATE THAT GREECE IS RECEIVING, IN ADDITION TO PHANTOMS, MODERN TANKS AND SUBMARINES, ALL WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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B. APRIL 7 HURRIYET CLAIMS THAT GREECE HAS 17 BASES AGAINST TURKEY IN THE AEGEAN, INCLUDING SUPPOSEDLY TOURISTIC AIRPORTS IN THE DODECANESE ISLANDS; FURTHERMORE, MILITIA HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE DODECANESE, CONTRARY TO AGREEMENT. APRIL 9 HURRIYET NOTES THAT THE GOG IS SEEKING NEW SOURCES OF INCOME--PERHAPS THROUGH GERMAN WAR COMPENSATION--TO FINANCE NEW BASES ON AEGEAN ISLANDS.

C. SAME PAPER APRIL 7 ALLEGES THAT GREECE IS SETTING UP A FORCE WITH CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT 48-HOUR PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ON TURKEY BEFORE BIG POWERS CAN INTERVENE.

C. CUMHURIYET ON APRIL 8 ALLEGES THAT US IS UNDER-HANDEDLY SUPPORTING GREEK REGIME TO TAKE REVENGE FOR TURKISH POPPY CULTIVATION.

E. HURRIYET OF SAME DATE POINTS TO EFFORTS BY GREECE TO
CONVINCE NATO ALLIES THAT STRAITS HAVE LOST STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE,
SINCE TURKEY COULD NOT DEFEND THEM, AND THAT GREECE SHOULD
INSTEAD RECEIVE MILITARY SUPPORT IN THE AEGEAN TO DETER THE
USSR.
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